

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A door checker for an automobile, comprising:
a case secured to one of a body of an automobile and a door pivotally supported on
said body for turning movement; a check plate which movably extends through said
case to be connected to the other of said body and said door and which is provided in
its opposite sides with ball guide grooves extending in a lengthwise direction; a pair of
ball holders accommodated in said case and capable of advancing and retracting
toward and away from the opposite sides of said check plate; a pair of balls which are
retained in hemispherical ball housings formed in said ball holders and which are
rollably engaged in said ball guide grooves; and a check spring for biasing said ball
holders toward said check plate,

wherein a recess is formed in an inner surface of each ball housing and retains
~~for retaining~~ a grease within the recess, the recess also accommodates ~~on an inner~~
~~surface of each of said ball housings and for accommodating~~ a dust therein ~~is formed in~~
~~the inner surface of each of said ball housings.~~

2. **(Original)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 1,
wherein said recess has at least portions extending in the lengthwise direction of said
ball guide groove through the center of the inner surface of said ball housing.

3. **(Original)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 1 or 2,
wherein said recess is formed so that its outer end is closed by contact portions
between said ball and an inner peripheral surface of said ball housing.

4. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 1, wherein said recess is closed from said ball guide groove by a corresponding ball of said pair of balls being placed in contact with an inner peripheral surface of said ball housing and said recess has a groove that extends between and connects two portions on an outer peripheral surface of the corresponding ball which have different distances from the ball guide groove.

5. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 4, wherein said recess further has an annular portion defined near the ball guide groove.

6. **(New)** A door checker for an automobile according to claim 5, wherein said recess further has a circular recess portion located at a center of the inner peripheral surface of the ball housing and connected to said annular portion via said groove.